

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed February 7, 2007, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-12, 16, and 17 remain pending in this application and currently stand rejected. As shown above, Claims 4, 10, and 16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7, 9 and 11 have been amended to clarify the subject matter and correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added by the amendments. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Action rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. As stated above, claim 16 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection is moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Action rejected claims 7 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, because the claimed invention is not directed to statutory subject matter. The Office Action alleges that the claims disclose functional descriptive material but not in combination with an appropriate computer readable medium. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended claim 7 recites “[a] computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer perform...” The actions include physical actions such as displaying or hiding from view. The Specification provides ample description of a computer readable medium such as “...a hard disk drive 27, a magnetic disk drive 28, e.g., to read from or write to a removable disk 29, and an optical disk drive 30, e.g., for reading a CD-ROM disk 31 or to read from or write to other optical media. The hard disk drive 27, magnetic disk drive 28, and optical disk drive 30 are connected to the system bus 23 by a hard disk drive interface 32, a magnetic disk drive interface 33, and an optical drive interface 34, respectively. The drives and their associated computer-readable media provide nonvolatile storage...” (Specification page 9, lines 11-17). Thus, the physical structure of the computer readable

medium, physical nature of actions performed by the stored instructions, and the connection between the instructions and the computer readable medium is adequately provided in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit, the rejection is therefore improper and should be withdrawn. Notice to that effect is requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Action rejected claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,341,359 to Aiken (hereinafter *Aiken*). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants' amended claim 1 recites a method for displaying a static information tip that includes, *inter alia*, "receiving an indication of focusing on the first data field, wherein the indication includes placement of a cursor on the first data field", "in response to focusing on the first data field, displaying a first static information tip proximate to the first data field, wherein the first static information tip does not interrupt data input into the first data field", "in response to focusing on the second data field, displaying a second static information tip proximate to the second data field, wherein the first information tip remains displayed until the indication of focusing on the second data field is received", "if the data received in the first data field is erroneous, refocusing on the first data field", "in response to refocusing on the first data field, displaying a third static information tip proximate to the first data field that is different from the first static information tip, wherein the third static information tip does not interrupt corrective data input into the first data field", "displaying an error marker proximate to the first data field to indicate the data entered in the first data field is erroneous." The amendments are inherently supported by the Specification since they were previously included in cancelled claim 4. Among other differences, *Aiken* does not teach the features of amended claim 1.

Aiken teaches a method, apparatus, and article of manufacture, and a memory structure for accepting data input into a computer (*Stadler*; Abstract). Specifically, *Aiken* fails to disclose receiving an indication of focusing on the first data field, wherein the indication includes placement of a cursor on the first data field; in response to focusing on the first data field, displaying a first static information tip proximate to the first data field as recited in amended claim 1. Rather, *Aiken* teaches that the user enters a data

value in a field and then that value is checked against stored constraints. Thus, there is no 'tip' displayed unless and until an erroneous value is entered. This is in direct contrast to Applicants' claim 1, which recites that the 1st static information tip is displayed in response to focusing on the 1st data field (which is recited as placement of a cursor in a field --- not entry of an erroneous value).

Furthermore, amended claim 1 recites displaying an error marker proximate to the first data field to indicate the data entered in the first data field is erroneous, which is also not taught or suggested by *Aiken* in combination with the other features of amended claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that *Aiken* fails to make amended claim 1 obvious. Therefore, amended claim 1 is allowable. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 5, and 17 depend from amended independent claim 1 with additional features. Thus, dependent claims 3, 5, and 17 are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to amended claim 1. Therefore, based on the foregoing, the rejection of claims 3, 5, and 17 should also be withdrawn.

Claim 6 recites a method for displaying a static information tip and an error marker that includes similar features as in amended claim 1 with additional features such as "automatically focusing on the second data field" and "automatically refocusing on the first data field, and in response to refocusing on the first data field, displaying a second static information tip proximate to the first data field, the second static information tip containing information for correcting the data received into the first data field."

For at least the reasons discussed above in conjunction with amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that *Aiken* also fails to make claim 6 obvious. Therefore, claim 6 is allowable. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Amended claim 7 recites a method for computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer perform actions similar to the features of the methods claimed in amended claims 1 and 6. For example, the computer-executable instructions of claim 7 include "in response to focusing on the first data field, displaying a first static information tip proximate to the

first data field", "automatically focusing on the second data field", "if the data received in the first data field is erroneous, automatically refocusing on the first data field", "in response to refocusing on the first data field, displaying a third static information tip proximate to the first data field that is different from the first static information tip", and "displaying an error marker proximate to the first data field to indicate the data entered in the first data field is erroneous." *Aiken* does not teach or suggest these and other features of amended claim 7 as discussed in more detail above. Thus, amended claim 7 is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 11 depend from amended independent claim 7 with additional features. Thus, dependent claims 9 and 11 are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to amended claim 7. Therefore, based on the foregoing, the rejection of claims 9 and 11 should also be withdrawn.

Claim 12 recites a system for displaying a static information tip and an error marker comprising a computer program module operative to, *inter alia*, "receive a user indication of focusing on a first data field, wherein the indication includes placement of a cursor on the first data field", "display a first static information tip proximate to the first data field in response to receiving the indication of focusing on the first data field", "place an error marker adjacent to the first data field, if the data entered into the first data field is erroneous", and "display a second static information tip proximate to the first data field in response to refocusing on the first data field, the second static information tip containing information for correcting the data entered into the first data field." *Aiken* does not teach or suggest the above listed and other features of amended claim 12, individually or in combination. Therefore, amended claim 12 is in condition for allowance.

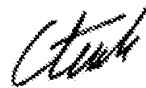
S/N 09/747,400

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date are hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD, PC



Date: May 7, 2007

Carl K. Turk
Reg. No. 59,675

MERCHANT & GOULD, PC
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(404) 954-5100

27488

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE